

REMARKS

Claims 1-34 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 3, 5-6, and 35 are cancelled, claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12, and 17 are amended, and new claims 36-38 are added.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 3 and to conform to idiomatic English and customary U.S. practice. Claim 3 has subsequently been cancelled. Claim 4 has been amended to depend from claim 1. Claims 5-6 have been cancelled. Claim 12 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Claims 7, 9, and 17 have been amended herein to place the claims into condition for allowance. New claim 36 has been added to recite a subterranean strata survey system. New claim 37 has been added to depend from claim 9. New claim 38 has been added to depend from claim 17. Support for amendments and new claims can be found throughout the specification, figures, and claims of the application as filed. No new matter has been added by either the amendments claim 7, 9, and 17 or the addition of new claims 36-38.

Specification

The specification stands objected to because of informalities. Applicants have corrected the informalities by inserting PCT and foreign filing priority claims into the specification. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 9 has been amended to delete “, preferably 5m or less.” Claim 37 has been added to depend from and further limit claim 9 by reciting that the distance between the two receivers is 5 meters or less.

Claim 17 has been amended to delete “for example 5 to 25 seconds.” Claim 38 has been amended to depend from and further limit claim 17 by reciting that the EM field is applied within approximately 5 to 25 second of the seismic event.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claim 35 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as directed to non-statutory subject matter.

Claim 35 has now been cancelled. New claim 36 recites “a survey report” as a claim limitation and is directed to a subterranean strata survey.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over International Publication No. WO 02/14906.

Claims 5-6 have now been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

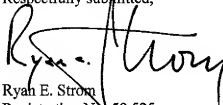
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-4, 13-16 and 18-34 are allowable. Applicants also thank the Examiner for the indication that 7-8 and 10-12, though objected to as dependent on a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim(s). Applicants have amended claim 7 to include all of the limitations of claim 5. Therefore, claim 7 is now allowable. Claims 8 and 10-12 depend from claim 7 and are therefore also allowable for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



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